

Healthy Buildings International (HBI) is one of the largest and most experienced indoor air consulting firms in the nation. Philip Morris provided some initial funding for HBI's Healthy Buildings magazine at HBI's request. We are also a cosponsor along with a number of other companies of the briefings on indoor air quality that are being conducted by HBI in various parts of the country. Our cosponsorship is a matter of public record and is printed on the materials that are handed out at the briefings. Our work with HBI is based on HBI's scientific, rational and unbiased approach to the indoor air quality issues that affect our customers who wish to be accommodated in their desire for responsible smoking policies. HBI's building research is consistent with the published reports of building investigations conducted by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), namely that sick building syndrome is closely associated with inadequate ventilation, air exchange and maintenance of the ventilation systems, and that environment tobacco smoke (ETS) is responsible for less than five percent of the investigated indoor air quality complaints.

We cannot comment further because Mr. Seckler, a former employee of HBI who was dismissed for reasons relating to performance, has threatened to file a lawsuit against the Company following our decision to deny his request made to us to fund certain projects of his own design.

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